



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

JANUARY EDITION

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of Seat Pleasant's incorporation. This past 80 years has taken us through many challenges and changes. The history of our city is rich. There is no doubt that the 200 plus hundred residents, who voted to incorporate this city in 1931, envisioned where we are today. Back in those early years, the city comprised a totally Anglo-Saxon population. Today Seat Pleasant is 98% African-American. The 80 year journey has had its ups and downs but now we must look to the future.

The City of Seat Pleasant has embarked on what will be the largest single development project in the City's history. The current site of the Feggans Center, Goodwin Park and the Old Police Station actually comprises five separate parcels totaling approximately 15 acres. These parcels will be the home of the brand new Seat Pleasant City Center. This project will cost over \$31,000,000. The City Center will include a new City Hall, a new Youth and Multipurpose Center, Commercial Space and Senior Housing.

As the largest development project undertaken by the City in its history, this project will also be the largest LEED-Platinum planned municipal development in the Washington Metropolitan area. The City is focused on being good to our planet. This project along with future development will work toward reducing the carbon foot print, by looking at ways to become more sustainable, water efficiency, renewable energy, and innovative designs. Seat Pleasant is becoming more recognized than ever before and our future is bright with magnificent intentions.

In planning for the future, we must think ahead for the next 80 years and beyond. While we manage the daily responsibilities of the city we must not allow our city to become stagnant nor fall behind. We must make certain that we continue to build a community that is safe, wholesome and creates opportunities for our posterity. This historic development would be the cornerstone in advancing a strategic economic development and growth plan for A City of Excellence.

As your Mayor, it is my responsibility to set a vision for our beloved City. Through vision, investment and leadership with key partners we hope to provide a quality development project that will greatly enhance the quality of life, increase property values, preserve local character and provide additional revenues for local based businesses.

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(Mayor's Message con't.)

All stakeholders are encouraged to be an integral part of this development. We need YOU, the taxpayers, churches, businesses, non-profits, elected officials our school and youth to get involved and share your thoughts. We will have an aggressive timeline that will move quickly as we would like to have our ground breaking ceremony the first part of June.

I want to thank members of our City Council, namely Council members **LaTasha Gatling**, **Elenora Simms** and **Kelly Porter** who serve with me on the planning committee. I also wish to thank our resident planning committee members including: Ms. **Jacqui Battle**, Mrs. **Eva Stokes**, Mrs. **Dorothy Pope**, Mr. **Michael Scott**, and Mrs. **Amanda Feggans**. Each of these individuals has given of their talent and time to ensure that the perspectives of our neighbors from each Ward are truly represented. This project is about our future. It's about setting a goal, developing a realistic plan, executing the plan and realizing the vision.

Seat Pleasant is a unique and beautiful community, with varying resources as well as needs. Our proximity to our Nation's Capital, make us an ideal bedroom community and it is ripe for the type of development that we are proposing. Many of you, particularly our seniors have made this a place that you call home. You moved here and raised a family and retired. Some of you have expressed your desire to stay here. We plan to ensure that opportunities are created and provisions are made to allow you to age in place with dignity, grace and convenience.

As we all work together to advance our community with one vision, one goal, and one purpose we will ALL be working toward making this A City of Excellence!



A WORD FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Happy New Year Seat Pleasant!

Welcome to a New Year! I trust that everyone enjoyed their holidays! As you may or may not know the State Legislative Session begins on January 12. As our State Officials begin the legislative session, please know that your elected officials will once again be actively engaged with both County and State Officials to ensure that Seat Pleasant is benefiting wherever possible. We were successful during last year's session in obtaining a Bond Bill. While we are not seeking funds this year, please know that we will be actively engaging in the legislative process to make sure that the legislation being considered is not a detriment to our community. We will keep you abreast of all information as it pertains to our community.

If you would like additional information on any of the above items, contact your Councilmember. We would like to hear from you.

We look forward to seeing each of you at our Public Meeting held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Again, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at 301-336-2600.

Sincerely,
LaTasha C. Gatling
Council President
City of Seat Pleasant
"A City of Excellence"

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The following legislation passed in the month of December:

Ordinance O-11-04 Commercial Truck Route. This Ordinance prohibits commercial trucks from traveling on certain streets in Seat Pleasant.

Emergency Ordinance O-11-06 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget for the Water Spillage Problem on Carrington Avenue

Resolution R-11-08 Waiver of Competitive Bid for Carrington Avenue Water Spillage Problem.

Copies of the legislation are available in Office of the City Clerk.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WARD I

WARD I MEETING

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Seat Pleasant City Hall

Topic: Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 Budget

Please bring your suggestions in writing or attend the meeting and complete a form with your suggestions on the Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 Budget.



KITE FLYING DAY(S)

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Goodwin Park

311 68th Place

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, 2011

6225 Foote Street (Open field)

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Kite will be supplied by Councilwoman Simms for the first 25 people. Light refreshments will be served. Bring your kite and join us!

WARD II MEETING

with Councilmember Stephenson

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Seat Pleasant Activity Center

5720 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Topic: *Entrepreneurship*



THE STATE OF MARYLAND HOMEOWNER'S PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

By Robert L. Ashton

The Homeowner's Tax Credit Program provides credits against State and local real property for homeowners who qualify, based on a sliding scale of property tax liability and income. The Homeowner's Tax Credit Program is a State funded program, where the State reimburses local governments for the cost of the tax credit against local property. This program which was initiated in 1975, was originally limited to homeowner's age 60 and older and homeowners with disabilities. This program was expanded to homeowners of all ages in 1978. The last change to the tax credit program occurred in 2004. This legislative initiative changed the Property Tax Credit to bring it in line with inflationary increases in property values since 1998. It is worth pointing out that according to Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessment currently only 165 residents participate in this program. An additional 70 Seat Pleasant residents are eligible for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit at a net savings of \$610 per resident. The State of Maryland's Property Tax Credit Program is 100% supported by State of Maryland. The deadline for submitting the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application is September 1, 2011. The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed one of three ways listed below:

By Mailing the application to the address below

By Using the online Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application (Application online is due September 1, 2011).

By Printing and mailing the pdf application on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation mailing address is:

Department of Assessment and Taxation
Homeowners' Tax Credit Program
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore Maryland 21201

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation web site is <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation phone number is: 410-767-4433.

If you have any questions please contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer 301/336-2600 extension 2230.

FROM THE OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

Residents please be mindful of the type of trash containers that should be used within the City to prevent trash from being all over the city due to high winds and rodents.

Chapter 129-12(A). Residential collections states - All refuse; trash and garbage shall be placed in containers of not less than 10 nor more than 20 gallons' capacity. Refuse containers shall be provided by the owner or tenant and maintained in a leak proof and sanitary condition. No trash or garbage shall be placed in paper or cardboard containers. Containers shall be made of metal or of a type approved by the Mayor and Council and shall have tight-fitting lids. No container shall be too heavy to be manageable by one person.

Since winter will be approaching soon the code enforcement department would like the residents to be mindful of the winter clean up process and ordinance. Due to the severe weather we had last year please remember the following:

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(Code Enforcement continued)

Seat Pleasant City Code 137-33-34 Snow Removal - It shall be the duty of the owner and occupant, jointly, of every parcel of real estate adjoining a public sidewalk to keep such sidewalk adjoining such property free from snow and ice and full paved width of such sidewalk. Snow and ice shall be removed within 24 hours after the end of snowfall. Sidewalks in front of commercial establishments and commercial parking lots shall be kept free of snow and ice at all times between the hours of 9:00a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS FROM CPAC

Have you noticed that the number of burglaries has increased in Seat Pleasant in the last few months? Although a lot of thieves work overtime during the holiday season, we need to do more to protect ourselves. Here are a few important tips that may prevent you from being a victim:

1. Look out for your neighbor! If you see something or someone that doesn't look right or seems suspicious, call 301-333-4000 (Call 911 for a crime in progress or emergencies only). (Wouldn't you want someone to do that for you?) Burglars love to work where no one cares about what they're doing, especially in broad daylight!
2. Make your home difficult to break into. Lock all outside windows and doors before you leave the house or go to bed.
3. Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
4. Invest in an alarm system - it is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to you the homeowner - especially while you're out of the house - and even when you're home! There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market. Check them out and find out what's best for you.
5. Leave your lights turned on - burglars and thieves work best in the dark.

The MOST important thing you can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a crime or any suspicious activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember, you can always remain anonymous!

If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Phil Martin, Public Relations and Community Outreach

If it looks wet, its probably ice!

As your EMS provider, the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company wants to share with you some helpful tips to avoid trips, slips, and falls! The folks from the University of Wisconsin have some great ways to avoid the slip!

No matter how well the snow and ice are removed from City sidewalks, parking lots and the surrounding streets, people will invariably encounter some slippery surfaces when walking outdoors in the winter. Many cold-weather injuries are the result of falls on ice-covered streets and sidewalks. Walking on snow or ice is especially treacherous. Getting around the City in icy conditions calls for planning, caution, and a little common sense.

- Dress warmly and wear boots with non-skid soles (avoid plastic and leather soles).
- Keep warm, but make sure you can hear what's going on around you. Wear a bright scarf or hat or reflective gear so drivers can see you, and whatever you wear, make sure it doesn't block your vision or make it hard for you to hear traffic.
- A heavy backpack or other load can challenge your sense of balance. Try not to carry too much—you need to leave your hands and arms free to better balance yourself.
- During the daytime, wear sunglasses to help you see better and avoid hazards. At night, wear bright clothing or reflective gear. Dark clothing will make it difficult for motorists to see you - especially if they aren't expecting you.

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(Seat Pleasant Fire Department con't.)

- When entering a building, remove as much snow and water from your boots as possible. Take notice that floors and stairs may be wet and slippery. Walk carefully.
- Be prepared to fall and try to avoid using your arms to break your fall. If you fall backward, make a conscious effort to tuck your chin so your head doesn't strike the ground with a full force.
- Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles--use the vehicle for support.

Streets and sidewalks that have been cleared of snow and ice should still be approached with caution. Look out for "black ice." Dew, fog or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces and form an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement. It often shows up early in the morning or in areas that are shaded from the sun.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or just wanna say hi. We're located at 6305 Addison Rd, Seat Pleasant MD 20743. 301-336-2331 and at www.seatpleasantfire.com.

We're also on Facebook! search us at "Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Comapny Inc."

***The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. is proud to announce that we are again renting our hall! Graduation Parties, Birthdays, Sweet Sixteens, Weddings, Etc. Please stop by the station, or call 301-336-2331, or email seatpleasanthall@gmail.com for details.

FREE TAX HELP COMING TO SEAT PLEASANT

Seat Pleasant is now a site for AARP to provide free tax help for low to moderate income taxpayers with special attention to those age 60 and older. Tax preparation will begin February at Seat Pleasant City Hall and will continue every Wednesday until April 15th. Assistance will be provided between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. but those interested **MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**, no walk-ins will be accepted!. When you come bring the following:

- Copy of last year's income tax return(s)
- W-2 forms from each employer
- SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits
- All 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099 - DIV, 1099- B, etc.) showing interest and/or dividends, and documentation, showing original purchase price of sold assets
- 1099-misc. showing any miscellaneous income
- 1099-R form if you received a pension or annuity
- All forms indicating federal income tax paid
- Dependent care provider information (name, employer, ID, Social Security number)
- All receipts or canceled checks if itemizing deductions
- Social Security cards or other official documentation for yourself and all dependents

To schedule an appointment contact Ms. Sanders at 301-336-2600. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.



TRASH COLLECTION

Please remember to place trash containers curbside by 6 a.m. in the morning to ensure collection. However, please be mindful that trash collection is completed by 4 p.m. so times for pickup may vary.

HEALTH PARTNERSHIP REPORT

The Seat Pleasant University of Maryland Health Partnerships (SPUM-HP) wishes all residents a very happy and healthy new year! All of us involved in the partnership are looking forward to working together this year to make certain Seat Pleasant residents become as healthy as possible! Each month we will provide information about a personal or community health issue—if there is ever a topic you are interested in learning more about, please let us know (call 301-405-2526) and we will make certain we write about that issue in the newsletter.

Most of the time when we think about health issues and concerns, we think about personal health behaviors and risk factors, rather than safety or environmental health issues. For example, we rarely think about making certain our homes are safe and protected from fires or carbon monoxide poisoning—both of which are critical “health behaviors” we can practice. And the steps we need to take to prevent fires or carbon monoxide poisoning are so simple—buy smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, install them in our homes and make certain the batteries work. Those steps are certainly much easier than what we have to do to prevent cardiovascular disease, which might require changing our diet, beginning an exercise program or quitting smoking. The new year is a good time for us to remind ourselves to make certain we have these safety devices in our homes, that they are distributed as needed throughout the entire house and that the batteries are working.

Another environmental hazard we typically do not think about is radon—how to protect ourselves from it or that it is even necessary to do! In fact, because so few people know about the health issue associated with radon, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) named January “National Radon Action” month. Radon is the leading cause of preventable lung cancer deaths among non-smokers in the United States. Radon is a radioactive gas naturally found in rock, soil and water (it is released from decaying uranium). Outdoors radon is typically not a problem because the levels are so low, but sometimes they can accumulate to dangerously high levels inside buildings. Unfortunately radon is odorless, tasteless and invisible, so we cannot tell if it is in our homes. Luckily though, radon testing kits are easily available—they can be found at local hardware or home improvement stores and they are inexpensive (about \$25). You can get a test kit for only \$15 at www.sosradon.org. For more information about radon, check out the EPA website at www.epa.gov/radon.

Sharon M. Desmond, Ph.D., Co-chairperson
Seat Pleasant University of Maryland Health Partnership (SPUM-HP)

SENIOR GREEN “CURB APPEAL”



The Seat Pleasant Senior Green Program will soon enter Phase II using funding from the Maryland Department Housing and Community Development Legacy Grant. Whereas Phase I dealt with the interior of the home and energy efficiency within the home, Phase II will focus on the exterior of the home. Seniors will once again submit applications for improvements to the exterior of their homes including windows, steps, porches, gutters, and fences. Applications will be reviewed and applicants selected. An energy audit will also be conducted. Further information will be forthcoming in future issues.

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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THE CITY COUNCIL WISHES TO THANK ALL WHO
SUPPORTED THE TOY DRIVE FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.
YOUR GENEROSITY
BROUGHT JOY TO SOMEONE IN NEED.



LATASHA GATLING
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



EUGENE W. GRANT
MAYOR



KELLY PORTER
AT-LARGE



ELENORA SIMMS
WARD I

***HAPPY NEW YEAR!
FROM
THE MAYOR
AND
CITY COUNCIL***



DARRELL HARDY
WARD V



ARETHA STEPHENSON
WARD II



REVERAL YEARGIN
WARD III



GERALD RAYNOR
WARD IV